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expiration of nine days from the date of departure or from the outbreak of the last case on board, or until given free pratique by the health authorities.

AUSTRIA.

Quarantine regulations as regards importation of goods from Asiatic ports.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D. C., July 12, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information a copy of dispatch No. 24, of the 16th ultimo, from the consul at Trieste, reporting that the Austrian Government, in view of the spreading of the plague in Asia, has prohibited the importation into that country of certain goods from ports in Asia.

Respectfully, yours,

WILLIAM R. DAY,
Secretary.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

TRIESTE, June 16, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Austrian Government, in view of the spreading and the increasing virulence of the plague in Asia, has prohibited the importation and transit of divers goods, as personal effects, used in bedding, rags, old sacks, and carpets, crude animal products, including raw hides and skins (except when lime-cured), human hair, etc., from the Island of Formosa, the ports of Amoy, Swatow, Hongkong, Canton, and Macao, as well as from all the ports of the southern coast of Asia from British India to the canal of Suez.

As raw skins and hides are occasionally brought here from India, for reimportation to the United States, I take the liberty to suggest that this quarantine measure of the Austrian Government be brought, by the agency of the consular reports, to the attention of those of our importers whose interests may be affected thereby.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

FREDK. W. HOUFELD, *United States Consul.*

BRAZIL.

Sanitary reports from Rio—Prevalence of tuberculosis.

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 21, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the official report for the week ended June 10.

There were 346 deaths from all causes, an increase of 19, as compared with the foregoing week; 14 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, an increase of 3; 19 deaths from yellow fever, a decrease of 7; 2 deaths from typhoid fever, the same as before; 1 death from diphtheria, none before; 5 deaths from beriberi, the same as before, and 52 deaths from tuberculosis, an increase of 3.

There occurred during the week ended June 17, 325 deaths from all causes, 6 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, 26 deaths from yellow fever, 26 deaths from different fevers, and 3 deaths from beriberi.

Information.—Among the diseases which constantly prevail in Rio de Janeiro, tuberculosis occupies the first place. It causes the greatest number of deaths, and, therefore, it may be proper on the present occasion to report particularly thereon.

In order to prove the great mortality from tuberculosis, I present the following table:

Mortality from tuberculosis.

Year.	Deaths from tuberculosis.	Total deaths.	Death rate.
			<i>Per cent.</i>
1886.....	2,077	12,659	16.5
1887.....	2,025	15,012	13.5
1888.....	1,990	11,418	17.5
1889.....	2,177	17,784	12.3
1890.....	2,202	13,725	16.0
1891.....	2,378	23,849	9.5
1892.....	2,170	18,996	19.4
1893.....	2,121	13,523	15.7
1894.....	2,127	19,360	11.0
1895.....	2,434	18,226	18.5
1896.....	2,631	19,604	13.5
1897.....	2,421	14,287	16.9

If we consider that the city of Rio de Janeiro is of large extent, that the people for the most part live in one or two story houses, and spend a great deal of time in the open air on account of the climate, that manufactories here are not yet so much advanced as in many other large cities, so that the air is not so much contaminated by them, in short, that in many respects the natural hygienic conditions of Rio de Janeiro are more favorable than those of other large cities, then the importance of the foregoing figures assumes much greater proportions.

The people of north and central Brazil are in general of low stature, and very thin, with tender bones, so that they are inclined to what is called a predisposition to consumptive habits. The constitution of Brazilian women in general is still another cause for suspecting in them a disposition to consumption. The vital resistance is, speaking in general terms, considerably reduced. The damp, warm climate is, as is known, very favorable to the propagation of tuberculosis. Therefore, all the circumstances are highly conducive to the development and increase of the tuberculosis germ, which already exists here, and is so widely prevalent.

No precautions whatever for preventing its propagation are used. The sputum is carelessly expectorated by the patients; its danger is not generally known. Even if it is expectorated into a spittoon it is not properly disinfected, and the possibility of the particles being carried by the breeze after drying is not generally realized.

In view of the great number of consumptive patients, it is evident that Koch's bacillum of tuberculosis exists to a great extent in the habitations of the people, and we know from scientific investigations how this germ is preserved on the walls and tapestry and in the dust, etc.

Climatic treatment, which is much used in Europe, is impracticable here. There are, indeed, some localities (Campos do Jordao, Barbacena, etc.), which are well known for their immunity from consumption. I do not know whether their reputation is well founded. However, patients who repair to those places are unfortunately obliged to deprive themselves of the greater part of the requisites for the proper treatment of the disease, therefore the result of the treatment is very doubtful. In my own medical experience I have seen no real success.

The treatment of patients and the means adopted for the extinction of tuberculosis consists merely in administering medicine. But we know how impotent are purely medicinal measures from an etiological point of view. In regard to the symptoms of consumption we can certainly do something; in regard to the etiological cause, nothing. In

this country the modern scientific and practical efforts for constructing special sanitary establishments have received hardly any attention.

Precautions for protecting children against infection are entirely insufficient. Many children are directly infected from hereditary causes or from close and constant contact with their parents.

Another source of infection, principally for children, is the cow's milk with which they are fed. In this country tuberculosis prevails to a great extent among cattle. There is no inspection of the animals by the authorities.

In the city and its suburbs it is usual to milk the cows in the presence of the buyer, which is useful for the latter's protection against adulteration. The milking is done in the open streets. No care is taken to insure the cleanliness of the udders or of the hands of the milker. Thus suspicious particles of foreign matter may enter the milk.

Other important measures for combating the disposition to tuberculosis, such as hardening the body in different ways, as for instance by gymnastic exercises, which contribute to physical development, and by a strict attention to methodical alimentation, are taken by the public here into little account.

I regret to say that, in my opinion, there is little probability of any change in the hygienic conditions relating to tuberculosis. By the action of the authorities much certainly can be done; but the most important part belongs to private initiative and the cooperation of everyone in his own sphere.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health from this office: June 15, schooner *King Cenric*, Norwegian, for Pensacola. June 17, barkentine *Nellie M. Slade*, American, for Barbados, West Indies; bark *Mabel*, Norwegian, for Barbados, West Indies; barkentine *Glad Tidings*, American, for United States, via Trinidad. June 18, bark *Sumarlida*, Norwegian, for Pensacola; steamship *Merida*, British, for New York; steamship *Coleridge*, British, for New York. June 21, steamship *Vectis*, British, for Galveston.

Respectfully, yours,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,
Acting Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

COSTA RICA.

Sanitary report from Limon.

LIMON, COSTA RICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, July 7, 1898.

SIR: Pursuant to your request, under date June 17, I inclose herewith mortality report for the week ended July 7, and I will continue sending similar reports weekly from now on. The general health of this place at present is particularly good, there being no serious cases of fever in either of the hospitals.

We have here all through the year malarial fevers of a more or less malignant type, but it seems quite evident that none of them are contagious, as two cases in the same house or immediate locality at the same time are rare occurrences.

Yours, very respectfully,

WALTER INGALLS,
United States Consular Agent.